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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hui, et al.

Appl. No. : 10/090,039

Filed : February 27, 2002

For : **BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR  
FOR STERILIZATION  
PROCESSES WITH DOUBLE  
BUFFER SYSTEM**

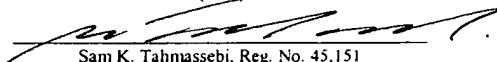
Examiner : Coe, S.D.

Group Art Unit 1651

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO BOX 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on

August 19, 2002

(Date)

  
Sam K. Tahmassebi, Reg. No. 45,151

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
PO BOX 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

Claims 21-26 are pending before the Examiner. Applicants respond below to rejections and objections raised by the Examiner in the Office Action of October 2, 2001.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Barney et al. (USP 4,906,573). The Examiner alleges that Barney et al. teaches a culture medium that contains a nutrient medium and an acetate buffer and a phosphate buffer. The Examiner concedes that Barney et al. does not teach adding a pH indicator dye to the culture medium. The Examiner further alleges that adding the pH indicator is within the skill of the ordinary artisan.